

Lesson 19. Vacation Security

Lesson Purpose

To provide an overview of vacation security, including tips about what to do before leaving, while on the road, while sight-seeing and during stays at hotels/motels.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe specific strategies for home security while on vacation.
- List crime prevention strategies while traveling and sightseeing.
- Describe practices to avoid being a victim of crime while staying at a hotel/motel.

Materials

Presentation: Vacation Security

Handout(s): "Vacation Security"

Supplement: "How Can I Make My Home Safer?" and "Lock Crime Out of Your Home," from the National Crime Prevention Council. Download at www.ncpc.org/
Display newspaper and magazine articles about crimes involving home burglaries or tips for crime prevention while vacationing.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slide
Introduction		
5 min.	Vacation is a time for fun and relaxation. Don't let yours be ruined by crime.	1 - 2
	Briefly describe a local crime associated with vacationing.	
	Today, we'll look at a number of strategies you can use to secure your home while on vacation; then we'll look at ways to stay safe while traveling, sight-seeing and while staying in hotels and motels.	2
	Distribute handout: "Vacation Security"	

Time	Main Points	Slide
Presentation		
6 min.	Before leaving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have good locks on all doors and windows, and USE THEM! ▪ Engrave your valuables with a permanent identification number or marker. ▪ Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot or on the ledge of a door. ▪ Make your house appear “lived in.” Lights, newspaper, lawn call. ▪ Leave your trip plans and an emergency phone number with trusted neighbors or friends. 	3
5 min.	On the road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never carry large amounts of cash. ▪ Keep a record of traveler’s check and credit card numbers; have phone numbers to call in case your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen. ▪ Be aware of your surroundings; never advertise your plans. ▪ Do not stop to offer help to a stranded motorist. Go to the nearest phone booth and call for assistance. 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest service station, restaurant or business and call the police or sheriff’s department. If you believe it is unsafe to get out of your car, sound your horn and flash your lights to draw attention. ▪ If your car breaks down, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Raise the hood and attach a white flag to the antenna. – If someone stops to help, stay in your locked car and ask them to call the police or a garage. – If you must abandon your car, keep all passengers together. 	5
4 min.	Car Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Always lock your car after entering or leaving it. ▪ Park in well-lighted areas. ▪ Check the back seat before entering your car. ▪ Mark your car radio and other removable car equipment. ▪ Always lock valuables out of sight; carry wallet, checkbooks and purses with you. ▪ Do not advertise that you are a tourist. Place maps and travel brochures in the glove compartment. 	6

Time	Main Points	Slide
5 min.	Sight-seeing Remember: Planning reduces your chances of becoming the victim of a crime. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask for directions to local attractions when staying at a hotel/motel. Select tour guides carefully. Ask if there are any areas in town you should avoid. Stick to well-lighted main streets and public areas. 	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking lost may make you look like an easy target for crime. Only carry the cash you will need, and only in small denominations. If members of your group go off separately, be sure they understand the importance of keeping track of time and returning promptly at appointed hours. 	8
3 min.	Hotel and motel security Staying overnight at a hotel or motel, remember the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the most direct route to and from your room, to the fire escapes, elevators and nearest phone. Use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows. Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Unpack and place belongings in the closet and dresser; arrange your things so you'll know if anything is missing. 	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider locking any electrical appliances (blow dryers, electrical shavers, etc.) in your luggage. Never leave money, checks, credit cards or car keys in the room. Place extra cash, expensive jewelry or other valuables in the safe. Report any lost or stolen items to the hotel/motel management and to the police. Report to the management any suspicious movements in the corridors or rooms. 	10
2 min.	Summarizing (briefly highlight each area) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before leaving. While on the road. While sight-seeing. While staying in a hotel or motel. 	11

Time	Main Points	Slide
Practice/feedback		
12 min.	<p>Have participants review the list of vacation security strategies in their handout. Ask them to place a checkmark (✓) beside the things they now do and to place an asterisk (*) beside the things that they need to begin to do.</p> <p>Give participants 5 to 7 minutes to complete this review. The instructor should circulate among the participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 2 or 3 volunteer participants to share what they learned from the review. The instructor should reinforce prevention strategies and key learning points.</p>	12

Time	Main Points	Slide
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we're doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we'd like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	13

19. Vacation Security

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I can identify more strategies for home security while on vacation.	1	2	3	4
b) I know more strategies for preventing crime while traveling or sightseeing.	1	2	3	4
c) I know more strategies for preventing crime while staying at a hotel/motel.	1	2	3	4
d) I am more likely to use crime prevention strategies while on vacation.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

